



the Space Place

Sept – October 2014 / Vol. 7, Issue 4

NEWS AND NOTES FOR FORMAL AND INFORMAL EDUCATORS

The Space Place is a NASA website for elementary school-aged kids, their teachers, and their parents.

It's colorful!
It's dynamic!
It's fun!

It's rich with science, technology, engineering, and math content!

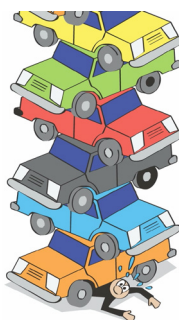
It's informal.
It's meaty.
It's easy to read and understand.
It's also in Spanish.
And it's free!

It has over 150 separate modules for kids, including hands-on projects, interactive games, animated cartoons, and amazing facts about space and Earth science and technology.

It's that time again—the beginning of a new school year! Here at the Space Place, we know that it can be a stressful time for educators. That's why we think it's a great idea to remind you of all the helpful resources we have developed specifically for you. Want material presented in visual, written, and animated formats for reading exercises in line with the Common Core? Look no further than our new "Space Place in a Snap" series. Want a handy way to provide Space Place activities to all your students even if they don't have a computer? We've made all of them available in PDF! Struggling to come up with material relevant to the Next Generation Science Standards? Check out our helpful NGSS search feature in the educators' section. While you are there, be sure to check out all the other great resources we provide.

What's New? Jupiter!

From massive planets, long distances, and extreme forces, it's a challenge for educators—let alone students—to fully grasp the sizes and scales behind astronomical and planetary science. The Space Place grapples with just this issue in one of its latest additions—a new article titled "What's it like inside Jupiter?" Building up from the pressure you might feel at the bottom of a pool all the way to the pressure felt in Jupiter's core, this article uses mid-size sedans as its primary unit of measurement. It comes with a fun animation too. Check it out at <http://spaceplace.nasa.gov/jupiter>.



What's New? Tectonics 'Snap!'

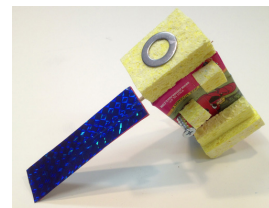


We've got a new release in our popular series "Space Place in a Snap." This time the combined poster and animation presentation tackles the concepts behind plate tectonics and the shifting nature of Earth's crust. This is a great resource for any Earth science curriculum. Check it out at <http://spaceplace.nasa.gov/tectonics-snap>.

Spotlight on Activities

With the arrival of the new school year, it's a good time to remember that our popular make-and-do activities are now available to download as easy-to-hand-out, ready-to-print PDF files. Perfect for the classroom or afterschool programs, these activities are a great way to bring the Space Place to all your students even if there are a limited number of computers or Internet connections. Check out popular activities like "Build your own spacecraft," "Make Oreo Moon phases," and "Get your gummy greenhouse gases."

The downloads are sorted by topic and can be found at <http://spaceplace.nasa.gov/make-do-pdf>.



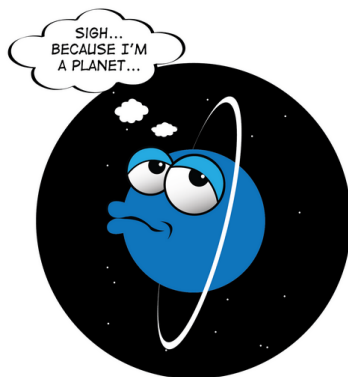
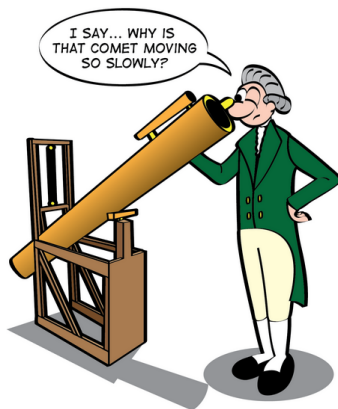
For the Classroom



What better way to decorate your classroom than with the Space Place calendar? It's now available for the 2014–2015 school year! The calendar has beautiful images and a plethora of fascinating NASA facts and trivia. You can download it month by month, or as a complete set, at <http://spaceplace.nasa.gov/calendar>.

For Out-of-School Time

Everybody loves a good story. Why not read an educational one? We've posted an entertaining new article on the discovery of Uranus. Despite being visible to the naked eye in the night sky, it was discovered thousands of years after the other visible planets of our solar system. Find out the reasons why and learn the story behind this much-delayed discovery at <http://spaceplace.nasa.gov/uranus>.



Share

Want some help spreading the word about NASA's Space Place? We've got a page with ready-to-use website descriptions, logos, and links to all our social media. Check out <http://spaceplace.nasa.gov/share>.

Send Feedback

Please let us know how you'd like to use NASA's Space Place in your teaching. Send your ideas to info@spaceplace.nasa.gov.

Special Days

September 5 – National Cheese Pizza Day.

Make a galactic mobile with the cardboard from your pizza. <http://spaceplace.nasa.gov/galactic-mobile>

September 13 – Positive Thinking Day.

Make your positive ions outnumber your negative ions when you do the "Ions in Action" experiment. <http://spaceplace.nasa.gov/ion-balloons>

September 16 – Collect Rocks Day.

Asteroids are big rocks in space. But how are they different from comets? <http://spaceplace.nasa.gov/posters/#solarsystem>

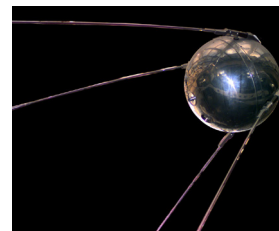
September 18 – Voyager I took first full-frame photo of Earth and Moon together, 1977.

Check out other photos of the solar system at the Space Place. <http://spaceplace.nasa.gov/gallery-solar-system>



October 4 – First satellite, Sputnik, launched by Soviet Union, 1957.

We have come a long way with satellites. <http://spaceplace.nasa.gov/earth-card-game>



October 14 – Desert Day.

Make yummy "El Niño Pudding" for dessert today. <http://spaceplace.nasa.gov/el-nino>

October 29 – Internet Day.

Celebrate by downloading some Space Place wallpaper for your computer desktop. <http://spaceplace.nasa.gov/wallpaper>